

**Interagency Wildfire Management Team
Meeting Notes
June 16, 2004**

Doug Tucker (Los Alamos County Fire Department) announced that because of the worsening fire hazard conditions, the County will implement restrictions on the use of fireworks. The County is also staffing up to prepare for potential fires between now and July. There is no precipitation in the forecast for at least the next week. Doug also announced that thinning in Rendija Canyon had been temporarily suspended to allow for sweeps for possible ordnance in the area.

Gene Darling (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) announced that tests run by LANL that could potentially cause fires will not be initiated after 10 AM. Gene anticipated that LANL will close all of its outdoor recreation facilities, except the Wellness Center Trail, in the next couple of days.

Ed Hoth (FWO-Utilities and Infrastructure, LANL) reported that signs for the fire roads are ready to install. Most of the fire roads are passable.

Manny L'Esperance (Emergency Management and Response, LANL) reported that dip tanks have been installed at LANL. Routine maintenance of the helibase landing area will also be implemented starting today.

Lawrence Garcia (Santa Fe National Forest) announced that partial closure of the Forest will begin at midnight on June 17. Lawrence also reported that 2,800 acres of the Santa Fe Watershed have been thinned.

Gary Kemp (Fire Management Officer, Bandelier National Monument) indicated that the monument is considering trail closures until the severe fire weather is ameliorated by precipitation.

Nando Lucero (Santa Fe National Forest) reported that a Type III team has been assigned to the Forest. Also, a retardant base has been established at Santa Fe.

Marla Rodgers (Bandelier National Monument) announced that the 20-man crew will remain at Bandelier for another week. Also, the EIS for the Fire Management Plan was reviewed without significant comment.

Randy Balice (Ecology Group, LANL) has been examining weather data for the Southwest dating back to the 1940s. The current drought is similar to the 50s drought in the decreased amount of precipitation that was received. However, the current drought is different from the 1950s drought in that it has been warmer in recent years than in previous time periods.

The next IWMT meeting will be at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, June 30, at TA-21, Building 210 in the RRES-ECO Conference Room (142). The IWMT meets every other week and these

meetings are open to the public. Contact Randy Balice (balice@lanl.gov, 665-1270) for further information, or to get on the distribution list for these meeting notes.